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Alberta
AN ALBERTA GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION

- Forestry Boat
- Parks Popular
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- Boom Continues

FEBRUARY, 1967

FORESTRY BOAT BUILT IN EDMONTON TO PLY WATERWAYS OF NORTHLAND

WORKMEN at the warehouse-shops of the Alberta Department of Lands and Forests have completed the hull of a 42-foot craft which they plan to launch at Fort McMurray when the ice goes out of the Athabasca River next May. The boat must be completed and fitted out by about the end of March, to be hauled by flatbed truck over the winter road to Fort McMurray.

Everything but the wheelhouse will go in one trip. The top of the wheelhouse, when it is in place, will be more than 18 feet above the keel, too high for the road trip. It is also being built in the Edmonton shops, and will be fitted into place at McMurray.

The boat, tentatively named MV Athabasca, is not the first to be built in the Edmonton shops, but it is the largest. Rated at 28 gross tons, it is 42 feet long, 14 feet in beam, and will draw less than two feet of water. Pushing Forest Service freight barges up and down the Athabasca River between Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan on Lesser Slave Lake, it will do the work of two smaller boats, and will replace an older one, the 34-foot MV McMurray.

Unique in design, the new boat was tailored to Alberta Forest Service needs by Naval Architect Godfrey O. Blake of Esquimalt, B.C. Powered by two 125-h.p. Perkins Supercharged Marine Diesel engines, the craft's flat-bottomed hull embodies two deep tunnels to contain the counter-rotating screws, or propellers, which will drive it through the water at about 10 miles per hour. Inboard cover plates over the propellers allow inspection or repairs to a damaged propeller to be done from inside the boat. Such damage, even in shallow-water work, is expected to be rare, for the tips of the propellers do not extend below the bottom of the boat.

The boat is designed to accommodate seven men, with six bunks in a sleeping cabin toward the stern, and one for the captain in the wheelhouse. The engineroom, amidships, will house the two Diesels, air conditioning and hot water heater units, and, in the future, a 10-kilowatt power plant. Above it will be the kitchen and eating space, while above all will be the wheelhouse.

In the wheelhouse a "console" of advanced design will control the running of the boat, mostly by hydraulic systems. Steering is by twin rudders.

Construction is almost all of metal. The hull is of 3/16th inch sheet steel alloy, with a tensile strength of 100,000 pounds per square inch. The sheet steel is supplied by Wilkinson Company Limited of Edmonton, and cut to shape, installed and welded by the Lands and Forest workmen at the site. Decking, supports and all superstructure housing are of sheet aluminum alloy, to reduce over-all weight and top weight for shallower draft and handling stability. The sheet aluminum, ⅛ - to ¼ - inch thick, is supplied by Drummond-McCall, Calgary.

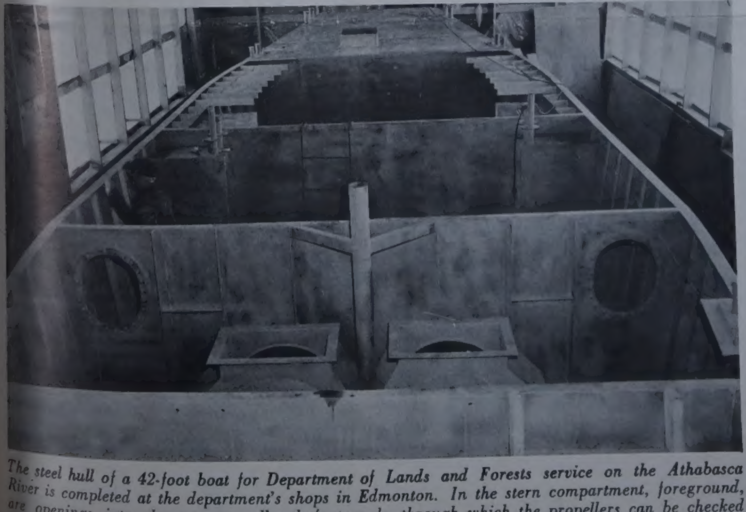
The all-welded hull is divided into five watertight compartments by four deck-high steel bulkheads. In case of accident, the boat would remain afloat if even two compartments were flooded.

Deck houses are nine feet wide, leaving a 2½-foot passageway on each side of the boat. The living accommodation will be insulated with 2½-inch foam insulation, and lined with aluminum panels for fireproofing and ease of maintenance.

While having accommodation for seven men aboard, in normal operation it will carry a crew of three.

The Department of Lands and Forests undertook the major boatbuilding operation for several reasons, mainly economy. Investigation showed that most available boats at the West Coast were high priced, of deeper draft, and were not suitable for river and shallow-water use.

The Forest Service is using the Athabasca waterway more and more in carrying equipment, supplies and machinery to ranger stations and protection services in northeastern Alberta. In most other areas of Alberta, flatbed trucks can haul bulldozers and scrapers, prefabricated buildings and other heavy equipment and supplies. North of Fort McMurray there are no roads for trucks, so MV Athabasca and her sister boats, and their barges, supply the necessary waterborne freight service. ●



The steel hull of a 42-foot boat for Department of Lands and Forests service on the Athabasca River is completed at the department's shops in Edmonton. In the stern compartment, foreground, are openings into the two propeller-shaft tunnels, through which the propellers can be checked from inside the craft. The tunnels raise the 24-inch propellers, to clear riverbed snags in shallow water.

Attendance at Alberta Provincial Parks Increases 30 Per Cent In Past Season

WHEN PICNIC TIME rolls around again, 37 provincial parks in Alberta will be ready to handle 35,970 picnickers at a sitting, quite apart from the thousands of youngsters who take their hot dogs on the run. There will be more than 5,995 convenient table-bench combinations in place throughout the parks system, each providing ample elbow room for six picnickers.

Table facilities have been increased steadily over the past seven years, to keep pace with the rapidly rising popularity of these Alberta recreation spots. Attendance at the parks from April through October, 1966, jumped almost 30 per cent from the previous year, to 3,455,909.

Coupled with the increase in summertime use of the parks is a "bonus" brought about by the soaring interest in winter sports. Power toboggan operators have found the easily-accessible provincial parks, with their trails and broad expanses of unfenced snowfields, provide ideal running terrain, and they have joined the skaters, skiers and ice fishermen who travel to the parks for winter fun.

Wardens and park staff are on duty at the parks all year around, and the picnic shelters, tables and stoves provide a convenient base for a winter day's outing.

Last winter more than 97,000 visitors used the parks from November to the end of March. It is expected more than 100,00 will be recorded during the same five-month period this winter.

The use of the parks has more than matched the increase in tourist travel, showing that they are fulfilling their original purpose of providing recreation facilities in smaller Alberta areas, for nearby residents. This was the initial intent of the provincial parks system, but with the park locations marked on highway maps, more and more tourists have been attracted to share their beauties.

The scenic locations of the parks, most of them on lakes or streams, have made them focal points for the rising interest in outdoor recreation, for tourists and district residents alike. Visitors from many parts of the world have commented on the well-kept facilities and pleasureful sites.

The parks are designed to provide conveniences for the camper and the day picnicker alike. They have pure water supplies and toilet facilities, picnic shelters, tables and pedestal stoves, complete with piles of firewood. Most of those on lake or stream have boat launching ramps.

All but the small park at Ma-Me-O Beach on Pigeon Lake accept campers, and most have prepared camping platforms for tents and parking space for camp trailers. Where the basic facilities are provided, a nominal charge of fifty cents per night is made. In two parks, where more refined facilities such as flush tolets, showers and formalized camping units are provided the charge is $1.00 per night – otherwise the parks are free to all.

So popular have the camping areas become for vacations that a two-week limit has been imposed, to allow the greatest number to use the sites.

As an added convenience for trailer campers, electrical outlets for trailer parks have been installed at five parks, Bow Valley, Crimson Lake, Cypress Hills, The Vermilion, and Wabamun. Water lines are being installed at Wabamun, to be ready next season for direct connection to trailers.

Of the 37 provincial parks now in full use, all but ten have come into existence in the last 15 years. Facilities at all parks are constantly being extended and improved, and at the same time, development work is proceeding at four new ones.

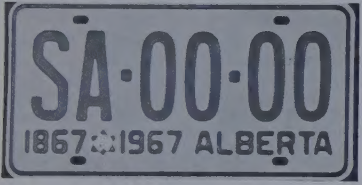
Of these four, one at the east end of Lesser Slave Lake encompasses 17,852 acres, third largest in the system after Cypress Hills and Dinosaur. It eventually will offer perhaps the widest range of recreational facilities, with summer camping, boating, beaches and nature trails combined with wintertime skiing and tobogganing runs on Marten Mountain. Its development is expected to take place over a number of years.

Another, Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park, is being developed on a 591-acre island in Lac La Biche. A 1,000-foot causeway will connect the island to the mainland, and use of the island will be limited while development work is being done.

The other two park areas which will be developed are Jarvis Bay, 215 acres on Sylvan Lake, and Tillebrook, 180 acres midway between Tilley and Brooks, near the Trans Canada Highway in southeastern Alberta.

Only one of the province's 42 existing park areas will remain relatively undeveloped. It is Hommy, near Beaverlodge. A picnic area popular with nearby residents for many years, it was donated to the province as a park in the 1930's by Adolph Hommy. Too limited in area for general use, its 16 acres will remain as Mr. Hommy intended – a pleasant gathering place for residents of the area. ●

'67 Vehicle Licenses Are Green On White



ALBERTA VEHICLE LICENSE plates for 1967 will provide an added safety factor for provincial motorists by being "reflectorized" to give vehicles approaching an unlit stationary vehicle on the highway some warning that there is an obstruction in their path. Additional production costs per plate for the process of reflectorization are minimal and the potential for saving human life and preventing property damage is considered well worth the extra expenditure.

Marking Centennial year, the green on white plate also carries a representation of the Centennial symbol and the dates 1867 - 1967.

Over 670,000 vehicle license plates of all types were issued in 1965. The total for 1966 is expected to be approximately 710,000 and the projection for 1967 slightly short of 750,000. Department of Highways records indicate that Alberta vehicle registrations increase approximately 5% annually for all types of vehicles and trailers.

Prefix letters for passenger cars this year will be "B," "C," "E" and "H" used in conjunction with fourteen secondary letters.

Initial distribution will give southern Alberta the "B" series, northern areas the "H" series and advantage has been taken of the letter series for the year by providing Edmonton and Calgary with "E" and "C" series respectively. It is pointed out this allocation is used only in the initial distribution of license plates and would not be applicable later in the year as plates are redistributed throughout the province as required. ●

Bertie Beaver, who has been working for the Alberta Forest Service of the Alberta Department of Lands and Forests since 1958, will appear on major highway signs in the forested areas of Alberta in 1967. Bertie, designed by the late Walt Disney as a contribution to the Alberta Government, has been featured on many fire prevention posters. Now, in large scale, he will caution motorists to "Keep Alberta Green" on reflectorized 4 by 7-foot signs, prepared by the Department of Lands and Forests and erected by the Department of Highways.

Study Northern Lake As Future Trophy Area

PEERLESS LAKE IN northern Alberta, about 200 air miles north of Edmonton, has been closed to commercial fishing this winter, because of its potential as a remote "trophy fishing" resort area.

Netting in previous years has yielded thousands of pounds of whitefish, according to reports of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Lands and Forests Department, but because commercial fishing might be detrimental to the lake trout population, it has been stopped this year.

An extensive survey of the lake trout population will be made next summer, with the hope Peerless Lake may become a well-known sport fishing lake, luring fishermen from the United States and other parts of the world. Lake trout of more than 25 pounds have been caught there.

Peerless Lake is reached on the ground only by an unimproved forestry road from Loon Lake, north of High Prairie, but it is easily accessible by air. The Fish and Wildlife Division is hoping someone will be interested in establishing a "fly-in" fishing and hunting resort. There is no accommodation at the lake at present, but it is in a beautiful timbered area, with some sandy beaches.

The lake is about 12 miles long, three to four miles wide, and more than 100 feet deep. Its waters are so clear fish can be seen from aircraft flying over it.

The Division is conducting a similar survey of numerous lakes in the rocky Canadian Shield area north of Lake Athabasca, between the Slave River and the Saskatchewan boundary, with a view to reserving them for sport fishing. At present commercial fishing is allowed in the winter, but the only fishing is done by the native population and the catch is small. The Northern Alberta Development Council has asked the Fish and Wildlife Division to survey the area's potential for sport fishing. ●

Centennial Jingle Material Available

BAND AND CHORAL arrangements of two of the Alberta Centennial "Jingles" are now available from the Alberta Department of the Provincial Secretary, Recreation and Cultural Development Branch, Room 425, Legislative Building, Edmonton.

Commissioned by the Alberta Government Publicity Bureau, the three songs were widely used by provincial radio and television media to introduce Centennial Year. Following overwhelming public interest, the words and music have been made available through the Alberta Government Publicity Bureau (245, Highways Building, Edmonton) free of charge and staff members of the Recreation and Cultural Development Branch undertook the choral and band arrangements for two of these.

Band arrangements are suitable for brass and reed bands; choral arrangements consist of four part choruses for High School or adult choirs and two part arrangements suitable for children's or ladies' choirs. Band, choral and piano arrangements are interchangeable enabling any choir or solo voice to be accompanied by band, piano or chorus. ●

Industrial Survey Shows Manufacturers Want To Diversify

ADDING TO THE industrial development services offered by the Province of Alberta, is an expanded service to assist Alberta manufacturers to grow and to diversify, which will shortly be offered by the Industrial Development Branch of the Department of Industry and Development.

Machinery is being set up to increase the kind of contacts between manufacturers which can result in more licensed production agreements, joint ventures, and new product distributorships for Alberta industry. Industry with such opportunities to offer will be put in touch with manufacturers willing and able to follow through.

Key to the success of this program is a survey of manufacturers recently conducted throughout the province in co-operation with industrial development co-ordinators in each Alberta city. This survey is designed to find out about manufacturing capabilities in the province, and about the interest of manufacturers in new expansion opportunities.

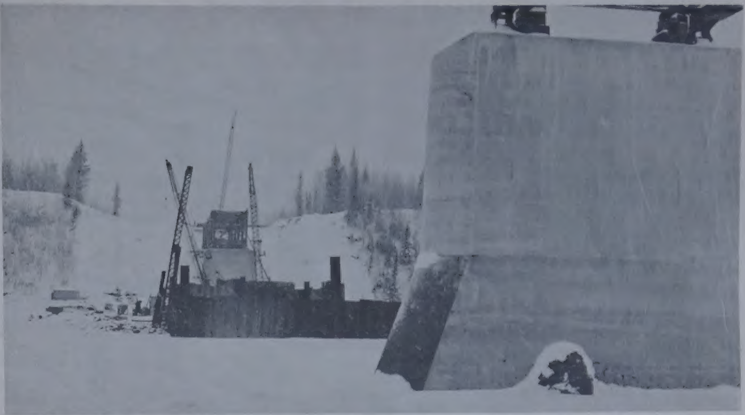
Of the manufacturers replying, 67.5 per cent expressed interest in licensing opportunities; 27 per cent in joint venture operations, 30 per cent in export markets, and 35 per cent in distribution opportunities.

Other points listed by the firms replying included 17 per cent interested in assistance in financing; 19 per cent in assistance in the fields of management, production, materials, quality control, equipment, or packaging; 28 per cent in local sources for components and supplies; 17 per cent in labor requirements, and 17 per cent indicating output of by-products or waste materials for which a market might be established.

Seventeen per cent of the companies indicated plans for expansion.

Respondents to the survey will receive periodic bulletins listing current licensing opportunities in their production fields. Their replies to the survey questionnaire will make up a reference catalogue which can be used to supply information to industrialists who enquire about Alberta manufacturers capable of producing goods under license, able to become part of a joint venture, or able to handle local distribution.

These catalogues will be put into use this year by industrial development officers of Industrial Development Branch offices in London England, Montreal Quebec, Los Angeles California, Edmonton and Calgary. The number of enquiries received at these offices grows each year. ●



Nose plate of ice flow impact recording assembly seen here at the base of the Hondo Bridge over the Athabasca River. Metering units housed in the pier will record ice flow effect during spring break-up of 1967.

Nose Plate And Gauge On Bridge Pier To Measure Ice Pressure At Break-Up

A RECORDING DEVICE for measuring ice flow pressures on bridge piers has been designed and installed by the Alberta Department of Highways Bridge Branch, working in conjunction with Hydraulic Engineers from the Alberta Research Council. Under the Alberta Joint Highway Research Program, the team is endeavouring to confirm that the present 29-tons-of-force-per-square-foot standard required by national design codes are in excess of that necessary for the maintenance of structural safety.

Literature research has revealed that present information on actual ice pressures is inconclusive, due to the difficulties of recording ice flow impact and the very complex properties of ice itself. Accordingly, the team set out to construct a recording assembly on a bridge pier that would provide this information.

Based on a hinged shield on the up-river side of a bridge pier, a 23' high by 8' wide steel nose plate will transfer pressures to a load cell meter housed in the bridge pier. This meter will measure dynamic loads ranging from a few thousand pounds to 400 tons.

The 18-ton structure and assembly, manufactured in Edmonton, has been installed in the new Hondo Bridge that crosses the Athabasca River 100 miles north of Edmonton. Ice pressure measurements will be recorded during the spring break-up.

Previous experience of the Bridge Branch Engineers leads them to believe test results will provide a basis for further investigation into the safety level incorporated in design codes. If it can be shown that a lower ton force is sufficient to preserve structural safety, future construction cost savings to provincial and international bridge builders could well amount to several millions of dollars. ●

1967 ROAD MAPS "MADE IN ALBERTA"

THE 1967 EDITION of the Alberta Road Map marks the first time that this entire publication has been produced within the province. Prepared by the Mapping Division, Surveys Branch, of the Alberta Department of Highways, the map covers the complete provincial area, plus overlap into surrounding territories, on one sheet at a 25 miles = 1 inch scale.

Using the basic 12 miles = 1 inch map prepared by the Division, the north and south sections of this map were spliced together to give a single map measuring 42" wide and 68" long. This was then reduced on a film positive.

Highway information and projections for the year were obtained from the Alberta Department of Highways Construction Branch, District Highway Engineers throughout the province and mapping agencies in the neighbouring Territories, Provinces and States. Information regarding hospitals, parks and campsites, towns, villages, population, forestry roads, recreation area etc., was obtained from various Government departments for the preparation of overlays to add such additional information to the basic map.

A total of 26 overlays on clear sheeting were reduced photographically to the required 25 miles = 1 inch scale and combined to give four colour positives in red, yellow, blue and black.

An additional feature of the map this year is a miles/average driving hours representation map covering motor travel from the Alberta border to points across the North American continent. City centre maps are provided on the reverse to cover Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge and Red Deer and, as in previous years, the mileage chart for provincial travel, points of interest information and general information are included to assist motorists travelling for business or pleasure.

Due to the rapidly changing face of the province following development in all areas, plus the approximately six months production time, projections for the ensuing year are included on the map to keep it as up to date as possible. Copies may be obtained by application to the Alberta Government Travel Bureau, 331, Highways Building, Edmonton, Alberta and are provided free of charge. ●

Birth Rate Declines But Marriages Rise

Figures now available from the Vital Statistics Branch, Alberta Department of Public Health, indicate that the birth rate in Alberta has continued to decline. Since 1963, when 38,467 births were registered in the province, the total has decreased steadily to the 1966 figure of 30,255.

The decrease has been experienced in all developed countries of the world and is attributed to the reduced birth rate experience of World War II years.

Following the below-normal birth figures of this period, there was an above normal rate immediately following the cessation of hostilities. This generation is now moving into the marriageable age groups and has given rise to a steady increase in the provincial marriage rate. In 1965, Alberta returned figures showing a marriage rate of 7.7 per 1000 population with a total of 11,209 weddings. Indications are that the number of marriages in 1966 exceeded this figure by 400 to 500. ●

"Within Our Borders" is a publication designed to acquaint the people of the Province with the administration of the Alberta Government.

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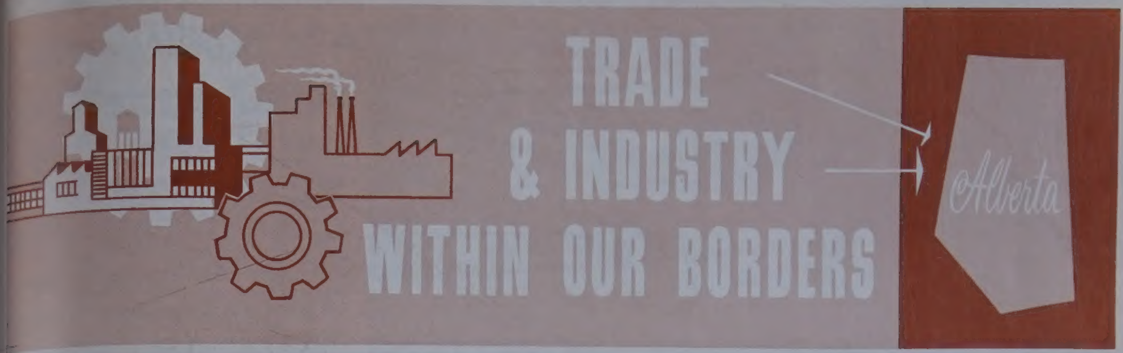
Coming Events

FEBRUARY

2	*Alberta Veterinarian Convention*	Red Deer
	Ladies Curling Bonspiel	Lethbridge
2- 4	*Alberta Fish & Game Association Convention*	Edmonton
	U of A Mixed Chorus Annual Concert	Edmonton
3-12	*Muk Luk Mardi Gras*	Edmonton
4- 6	*Alberta Credit Granters Association Convention*	Edmonton
5- 6	*Alberta Quick Freeze Association Convention*	Red Deer
6- 9	*Alberta Dairymen's Association Convention*	Calgary
7- 9	*Fish & Wildlife Convention*	Calgary
7-10	*National Association of Corrosion Engineers Convention*	Edmonton
8	*Centennial Invitational Swim Meet*	Red Deer
	Alberta Emergency Measures Organization Unit/Municipal Co-ordinators Conference	Red Deer
9-10	*Alberta Emergency Measures Organization Municipal Conference for Mayors, Reeves and Co-ordinators*	Red Deer
	Alberta Teachers' Association 4th *Edmonton District Convention*	Edmonton
10	*Beta Sigma Phi Valentine Ball*	Lethbridge
10-11	*Daughters of the Nile Convention*	Edmonton
	Lethbridge Junior College Drama Festival	Lethbridge
11-12	*Edmonton Symphony Concert*	Edmonton
13	*Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra*	Calgary
15	*Square Dance Club hosting Canadian Callers*	Lethbridge
15	*Dr. Jean Sutherland Boggs lecture, Calgary Allied Arts Centre*	Calgary
15-18	*Stratford Shakespearian Theatre*	Calgary
15-19	*Centennial Winter Carnival*	Wetaskiwin
16-18	*Ophthalmological & Otolaryngological Society*	Banff
	U of A Varsity Guest Weekend	Edmonton
17-18	*Young Presidents Organization*	Banff
18	*Sheet Metal Products Convention*	Red Deer
18-20	*Ontario Beauty Supply Company Convention*	Calgary
19	*Allied Arts Council Calgary Philharmonic*	Lethbridge
19-22	*Western Canadian Society of Horticulture Convention*	Banff
21	*Edmonton Junior Chamber of Commerce present Teleletter Clinic*	Edmonton
21-23	*Fish & Wildlife Convention*	Banff
22	*Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention*	Edmonton
22	*Confederation Train*	Jasper
22-23	*Alberta Teachers' Association* 2nd *Edmonton District Convention*	Edmonton
23	*Canadian Natural Gas Processing Association Convention*	Calgary
23-25	*Lethbridge Annual Seed Fair*	Lethbridge
23- Mar. 6	*Confederation Train*	Edmonton
24	*Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues Ice Review*	Edmonton
24-25	*Winter Carnival*	Red Deer
24	*Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention*	Edmonton
25	*Industrial Management Club of Canada Seminar*	Edmonton
	Young Liberal Association Convention	Calgary
	Engineering Institute of Canada Meeting	Edmonton
	Annual Meeting of Historical Society of Alberta	Lethbridge
	Jeunesses Musicales Concert	Red Deer
25-26	*Edmonton Symphony Concert*	Edmonton
25-27	*Western Canada Hardware Convention*	Calgary
25-Mar. 11	*Billy Graham Centennial Crusade*	Edmonton
26	*Jeunesses Musicales Concert*	Calgary
27	*Spring Thaw*	Red Deer
28	*Alberta Hospital Association Meeting*	Edmonton
	Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists Public Lecture	Calgary
28-Mar. 3	*Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association Convention*	Calgary

MARCH

1- 2	*Alberta Teachers' Association*—3rd *Edmonton District Convention*	Edmonton
2- 4	*Alberta Dance Festival*	Lethbridge
3- 4	*Boy Scouts Centennial Pageant & Ice Stampede*	Calgary
3- 5	*Western Young Liberal Association Convention*	Calgary
4	*Centennial Ice Carnival*	Medicine Hat
4- 5	*Calgary Coin Association Convention*	Calgary
5	*Ukrainian Festival*	Edmonton
5-10	*Education Week*	Alberta
5-12	*"Second Century" at Universities*	Edmonton & Calgary
6-10	*Rebekahs Assembly*	Edmonton
6-11	*Centennial Bonspiel*	Medicine Hat
6-11	*Alberta Drama Festival*	Lethbridge
7- 8	*Confederation Train*	Red Deer
	Acquacade	Red Deer
	Ice Varieties	Red Deer
7-10	*Independent Order of Odd Fellows Convention*	Edmonton
8	*Centennial Mosaic Fair*	Red Deer
8-11	*Allied Arts Extravagazna*	Red Deer
9-17	*Canadian Centennial Commission Convention*	Calgary
9-18	*Confederation Train*	Calgary
10	*Special Centennial Convocation U of A*	Edmonton
10-12	*Alberta Education Council Convention*	Edmonton
11-12	*Edmonton Symphony & University Singers*	Edmonton
13-17	*Kiwanis Centennial Music Festival*	Red Deer
	Medicine Hat Centennial Music Festival	Medicine Hat
14	*Canadian Players Foundation*	Lethbridge
14-17	*Historical Pageant—Separate School Board*	Calgary
15	*Beta Sigma Phi Fashion Show*	Lethbridge
16	*Overture Concert*	Lethbridge
16-18	*Centennial Ladies Bonspiel*	Medicine Hat
18	*Special Centennial Convocation U of A*	Edmonton
	High School Drama Festival	Lethbridge
18-19	*Science Fair— Junior & Senior High School Students*	Lethbridge
19-21	*Centennial Caravan Meeting*	Lethbridge
19-22	*Confederation Train*	Lethbridge
20	*Calgary Spring Bull Sale*	Calgary
20-21	*Alberta Fire Chiefs Association and the Alberta Fire Protection Association joint Convention*	Edmonton
20-22	*Federated Co-operatives Ltd. Convention*	Edmonton
20-23	*Public School Board—Festival of Youth*	Calgary
21	*Lethbridge Collegiate Institute Student Council Variety Show*	Lethbridge
22-23	*Canadian Red Cross Society, Alberta Branch Convention*	Edmonton
22-23	*"The Robe" Salvation Army (Theatre)*	Lethbridge
23-25	*Confederation Train*	Medicine Hat
23-25	*Alberta Progressive Conservative Association Convention*	Edmonton
24	*East Lethbridge Rotary Club—Ballet from Edmonton*	Lethbridge
26-29	*Alberta Teachers' Association Convention*	Edmonton
26-30	*High C—United Church Youth Group*	Calgary
27-31	*YMCA Intermediate Leaders Training Conference for Western Canada*	Calgary
27-31	*Catholic Training Program of Organizational Techniques*	Lethbridge
28-30	*Evangelical Free Church Conference*	Calgary
28-April 2	*Canadian Western Stock Show & Rodeo*	Edmonton
30-31	*Provincial Assessors Seminar*	Calgary
30-31	*Alberta Home Economics Association Convention*	Edmonton
30-April 1	*Association of Professional Engineers of Alberta Convention*	Calgary
31-April 1	*Alberta Motor Association Convention*	Calgary
31-April 1	*Water Well Convention*	Red Deer



New Venture Is A Real "Money-Maker" As Sherritt Gordon Installs Minting Press

A NEW INDUSTRY launched in Alberta late in 1966 is designed to be a money-maker. It is The Sherritt Mint, installed in the Fort Saskatchewan plant of Sherritt Gordon Mines Limited, to produce nickel coins and medallions.

Sherritt Gordon has been manufacturing coin "blanks" for six years, and since 1962 has supplied the Royal Canadian Mint at Ottawa with more than 195 million blanks, the entire requirements for the Canadian 5-cent piece. Blanks for South African 5-cent and 50-cent coins, minted since the adoption of nickel coinage in 1965, have totalled 85 million.

Now, to supply countries which do not have a Mint, and which purchase coins in final form, ready for issue, the Sherritt plant has installed a Taylor and Challen minting press, similar to those used in the Royal Canadian Mint. The machine can stamp out coins at a rate of 150 per minute.

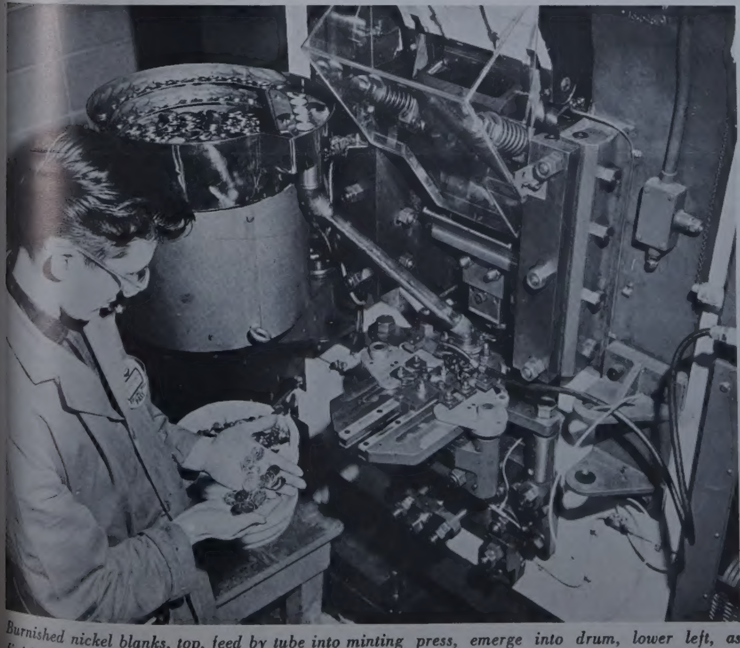
The first production from the new mint is a pure nickel medallion, made in three sizes. Its face portrays Anthony Henday, the first white man to reach what is now Alberta, who camped on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River in 1755, in the vicinity of present-day Fort Saskatchewan. The reverse side of the medallion carries the Sherritt Gordon trademark.

Single medallions or sets of three, in burnished mint condition and in plastic pouches, have been sold to coin dealers and are used by company marketing representatives as samples for prospective customers. The sets of three, for presentation in foreign markets, carry a narrative of the trip into the unknown western land by Henday in 1754-55.

The Sherritt Mint also is producing 5,000 Centennial medallions for the town of Fort Saskatchewan. Using dies prepared by Universal Emblems Ltd. in Edmonton, the medallion shows on its face an Indian canoe on the river with a fort in the background, and on the reverse side the Canadian Centennial symbol.

The coin operation at the Sherritt plant will now be complete from raw material to finished product. Using a process developed by the company, nickel in powder form is compacted under pressure and rolled into strips. By further high-temperature annealing, sintering to remove sulphur, and rolling, this "green" nickel strip is purified and hardened into six-inch-wide coils of 80/1000th-inch-thick strip, ready to be punched into blanks.

The Sherritt Mint medallion in three sizes, and a South African 50-cent coin minted on Sherritt Gordon blank.



Burnished nickel blanks, top, feed by tube into minting press, emerge into drum, lower left, as finished coins or medallions. Operator John Navratil checks production.

After the blanks are punched, they are "deburred," annealed to the proper degree of hardness for "striking" in a mint, and given a bright lustre and smooth finish by tumbling in a giant barrel containing soap, ammonia and steel shot, which smooth off tiny scratches.

Before packaging, the blanks are visually inspected on both sides, and regular samples taken for quality-control checks of hardness and weight distribution.

For protection against marring in transit, the blanks are packaged more carefully than eggs. Five thousand blanks are fed automatically into plastic film bags inside cardboard boxes. These boxes are fitted, 36 at a time, into foam-rubber-stripped corrugated cardboard cartons, secured by metal strapping. For shipment to Ottawa, each carton is mounted on a wooden pallet which also has half-inch foam rubber "feet." For shipment overseas, further protection of wooden crates is provided.

In 1965, the Fort Saskatchewan plant produced 1,616,000 pounds of metal blanks. An expansion completed in 1966 increased its capacity to 3,000,000 pounds of blanks per year. The rolling mills, punch presses and minting press now represent an investment of several million dollars. ●

ALBERTA'S ECONOMY CONTINUES AT "BOOM" PACE

ALBERTA'S ECONOMIC boom continued unchecked in 1966, according to the Annual Review of Business Conditions compiled by the Bureau of Statistics of the Alberta Department of Industry and Development.

In summary, "grain production was at a record high; livestock prices were high and firm; farm cash income rose accordingly. Mineral production was 9% higher than in 1965. Manufacturing output was higher in real terms by more than 7% in value. Construction almost matched the previous 1965 record. Labor income was 13% higher and unemployment was negligible. As might be expected from the higher total income . . . retail trade also rose by close to 9%."

Farm cash income was higher in 1966 than in any recent year. Major income sources were: Grain, $282,216,000 from January through November, compared with $249,319,000 for the same period in 1965; Livestock, $288,121,000 for 11 months compared with $249,744,000 in 1965; Dairy Products $34,287,000 for 10 months, compared with $34,890,000 in the same period of 1965; Poultry Products $15,284,000 for 11 months compared with $12,597,000. Total farm cash income was $619,908,000 compared with $546,550,000 for the same period of 1965.

In construction, the value of building permits issued was nearly 5% lower than in 1965. Preliminary figures for 1966 show a total of $332,000,000, compared with $348,927,000 for 1965. Both were a considerable gain over the $289,599,000 recorded in 1964. Generally, building volume was lower in southern Alberta and higher for Red Deer and points north.

According to Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimates, the value of minerals produced rose by over 9%, from $794,170,720 in 1965 to $871,349,673 in 1966. At the current growth rate in production, Alberta should soon surpass Ontario as the major mining province of Canada.

Crude petroleum production increased more than 10% to 203,500,000 barrels and the value to $524,421,000 from $474,385,000. Natural gas production rose to 1,293,829,000 Mcf., valued at $170,914,000, compared with $162,426,142. The value of natural gas by-products was $93,439,000, compared with $86,769,061.

The value of the 1,876,000 tons of sulphur produced was $33,500,000, compared with $24,121,809 in 1965. Salt production remained about constant at 116,000 tons, but the value dropped to $1,591,700 from $1,815,828. Coal production and value remained about the same as in 1965, with 3,410,000 tons produced for a value of $12,450,000. The value of cement production increased to $16,676,000 from $15,597,836. Sand and gravel returned $12,587,480, compared with $11,437,693 in 1965. Lime production gained 16% to 71,824 tons and the value rose to $1,337,628 from $1,154,931.

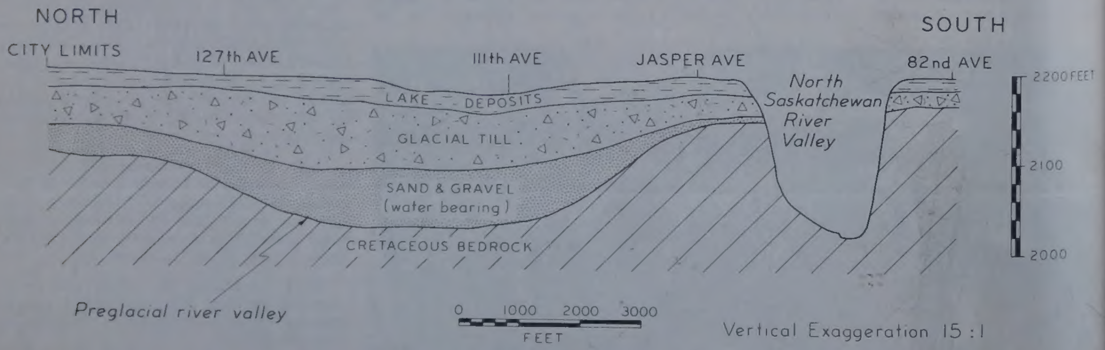
Manufacturers' shipments rose in value by nearly $100,000,000 during 1966, to $1,364,000,000. Major increases were shown by the Foods and Beverages industry (particularly the meat packing plants); by the metal fabricating industry, by the non-metallic mineral products industry and by the chemical production industry. The cut-back in residential construction was reflected in lower sawmill production, and the fact that 1966 was an "off year" for pipelining was reflected in lower shipments from the primary metal industry group.

Value of Manufacturing Shipments (Preliminary Alberta Bureau of Statistics estimates)

Industry	1965 $	1966 $
Food, Beverages	516,000,000	575,000,000
Textiles	10,000,000	9,700,000
Clothing	22,900,000	23,100,000
Wood	51,000,000	49,000,000
Furniture, Fixture	11,300,000	12,300,000
Paper, Allied Ind.	52,500,000	53,000,000
Printing, Publishing, Allied Ind.	39,000,000	44,500,000
Primary Metal	87,700,000	78,900,000
Metal Fabricating	95,800,000	110,000,000
Machinery	15,000,000	16,800,000
Transportation Equipment	20,000,000	23,200,000
Electrical Products	11,400,000	12,400,000
Non-metallic Mineral Products	76,900,000	87,700,000
Petroleum, Coal Products	136;300,000	139,000,000
Chemical Products	90,700,000	99,800,000
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	27,300,000	29,000,000
Totals	1,265,500,000	1,363,500,000

Total labor income for 1966 is estimated $29,400,000,000 as compared with $26,000,000,000 in 1965. Retail sales rose to $1,924,000,000 from $1,776,000,000. Electric Power generation exceeded 6 billion Kwh. for the first time. ●

Water-Filled 'Saucer' Charted as Aid to Engineers



AN X-RAY VIEW of what lies below downtown Edmonton has been charted by geologists of the Alberta Research Council, in a program which the Council hopes will be followed by other Alberta cities.

The investigation of the sub-surface structure involves a shallow-hole drilling program supervised by Research Council geologists and conducted by Edmonton Engineering Department personnel. The information gained is of immense potential value to city and private engineers, planners and builders, the geologists report.

Tests show the bedrock below Edmonton is in the form of a vast saucer-shaped depression, about 180 feet beneath the surface at its deepest point. It was formed as a subtropical swamp in the Cretaceous period, and hardened into sandstone, shale and coal about 65 million years ago.

In this bedrock, the ancestral North Saskatchewan River cut a broad, deep channel, north of the present river and six times as wide. This ancient riverbed became filled with coarse sand and gravel, as much as 75 feet thick.

The ice age, 30,000 years ago, covered this area with ice 5,000 feet thick, and as the ice melted 10,000 years ago it left a covering of glacial till, clay, and sand, more than 100 feet thick in places.

The melted ice left a vast lake over what is now Edmonton, and as it drained away and dried up, lake deposits 15 to 35 feet deep were formed: the hard, grey gumbo clay which lies a few inches below the topsoil in most parts of the city.

Of practical value, the geologists found that the gravel beds above the bedrock contain large amounts of water under high pressure. Excavations into this zone may bring dangerous quicksand conditions. Thus it is important to know the location and thickness of these deposits in planning sewers, building foundations or a possible subway system. On the credit side, the buried gravel zone contains a second "river" of good quality water which could provide a water source if needed.

The report on the findings was prepared by Dr. L. A. Bayrock and Dr. T. E. Berg, Research Council geologists, whose specialty is the study of glacial deposits. ●

Ready Markets For Netted Gems

AT LEAST A CARLOAD a day of Alberta potatoes are now being distributed to markets across Canada and in the United States, with the opening of the modern Alta-Fresh Products Ltd. plant in Taber last November. The firm's 47,000 square foot structure, representing a $450,000 building investment plus $135,000 worth of equipment, employs 35 people with a payroll of some $160,000 a year. When the plant reaches full operation, it is expected that staff will total half as many again.

The company is the result of surveys of supply and market potential for fresh vegetables made by a quintet of Lethbridge businessmen. With the survey showing that the project was feasible, a private company was formed, expert staff hired and construction was undertaken. Financing involved both public sources and provincial government participation through the Alberta Commercial Corporation.

While the firm is now handling potatoes only, its five-year program of growth calls for subsequent packaging and marketing of carrots, onions, turnips and cabbage.

Packaged potatoes are graded according to government standards, with the Alberta Netted Gem potatoes going out to market in 5, 10, 20 and 25 pound cellophane sacks for domestic consumers, and in 50 and 100 pound burlap sacks to commercial buyers. They are Graded Canada No. 1 and Canada No. 2.

The firm has a close eye on costs and return on every possible source of revenue. Those potatoes that don't meet either Grade 1 or 2, are sold to a dehydration plant where they are powdered and packaged. Others, too small for economical handling for consumer consumption, are made available to stock feed producers.

Plant Manager Edward Gilmore anticipates the success of the Alta-Fresh plant will encourage the establishment of other similar plants in the irrigation areas of southern Alberta. Depending on type of transportation available, it is estimated that a plant can serve an area of some 35 miles radius.

Establishment of these grading and packing plants will call for changes in growing procedures for farmers of the district. There will be likely expansion in specialized one-or-two crop production, and harvesting procedures will be improved. Standardization of quality, generally upgraded, will also likely ensue, to the financial benefit of the producer.

Marketing, according to Mr. Gilmore, has been no problem with the Alberta Netted Gem potato being readily accepted and even sought after on the produce markets, both in Canada and the U.S.A.

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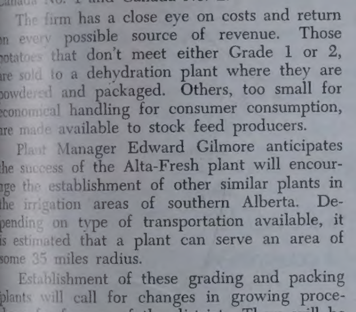
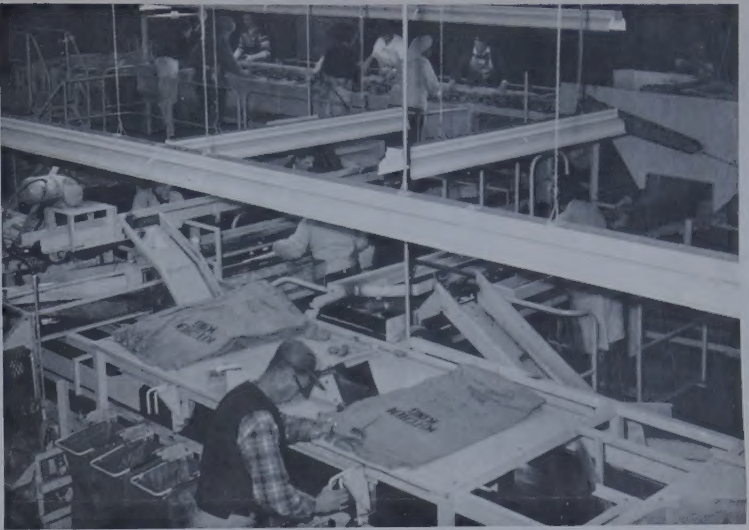

We Use ALBERTA NETTED GEM POTATOES
GOLDEN BROWN FRENCH FRIES 25
PEPSI

At the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto, Alberta potatoes took many awards. One entrepreneur at the Fair was quick to take advantage of the situation, as noted on the sign above his snack bar.



Keen-eyed workers sort and grade potatoes carried on belts before them, in the modern Alta-Fresh plant at Taber. Graded Canada No. 1 or No. 2, they are bagged by workers in foreground and shipped for market. Discards carried off at right, are sent for processing at a nearby dehydration plant, or sold to processors for cattle feed.

New Laboratory at NAIT To Help Train Plastics Industry Technicians

THE TECHNICAL WORLD of plastics will soon become a reality for 22 students at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Edmonton, with the completion of a specialized laboratory for the study of plastics. These students are members of the latest two-year technology program at NAIT to train technicians for the plastics industry.

The manufacture of raw plastics and a great diversity of plastic products is one of the most dynamic industries in Alberta today. Just ten years ago there were no plants manufacturing plastics west of Toronto. At present there are some 50 plants in the province, centered mainly around Calgary and Edmonton. With rich sources of gas and oil, the basic components of plastics, Alberta has the essential requirements for the development of this industry. However, there is a severe shortage of trained technicians in this field.

To help solve the shortage of skilled workers, Alberta's Department of Education and leaders from the plastics industry organized an Advisory Committee in 1963 to develop a training program. The first step was an evening program at NAIT in the fall of 1964 to upgrade those already working in the plastics industry. Response was immediate and 50 persons registered for the course, one of the first training programs in the field of plastics to be offered in Canada. Classes were held two evenings a week covering such subjects as thermoplastics, thermosets, corrosion control of plastic coatings, and new plastics steadily arriving on the market.

Plans were soon under way for a comprehensive two-year day program leading to a Diploma of Technology. Every high school north of Red Deer was visited on Career Days by NAIT personnel and students were briefed on the potential of the industry and the plastics program to be offered at the Institute. Students were advised that a high school diploma or equivalent, with at least a "B" standing in Mathematics 30 or 32 and Science 20 or 22, would be expected. Preference would also be given to applicants having Chemistry 30.

Plastics specialists from industry were recruited as guest lecturers to assist full-time intructors when the first classes began late in 1966.

The main emphasis in first year courses is on mathematics, physics, chemistry and drafting. The practical side of the program will require student visits to industrial plants in and around Edmonton, and work in the new laboratory facilities now being installed at NAIT. When completed, the laboratory will house a 25 ton press, a plastic impact machine, a melt indexer for testing temperatures at which plastics should be molded, a plastic tensile testing machine with a 5000 pound maximum capacity, plastic bending units, ovens for forming plastics, and semi-hydraulic injection moulding machines.

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Oil Rig Classroom For Drilling School In New Program

AN ALBERTA Oil Well Drilling School opened in Edmonton in December with 27 students registered for the first 6-week course. A 250-ton, 113-foot drilling rig, donated by the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors, was erected on the 3-acre site in south Edmonton.

Basic skills of rig work will be covered, as well as upgrading courses of instruction for those already working in the industry. This training program for the petroleum industry is the first in Canada under Program 5 of the federal-provincial technical and training agreement, which provides generous training allowances. The new school will be under the direction of Mr. Jack Mitchell, Director of the Division of Vocational Education of Alberta's Department of Education. Plans are under way for a new building to be erected on the site next fall.

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THE TOWN OF WESTLOCK

LOCATION

On parts of sections 32 and 33-59-26 W 4 and parts of sections 4 and 5-60-25 W4 in Census Division 13. This location is 50 miles northwest of Edmonton on Highways 2, 18 and 44 and on the main line of the Northern Alberta Railways from Edmonton to Dawson Creek.

ALTITUDE

2,133 feet; Latitude 54°43'; Longitude 115°25'.

TEMPERATURE

Summer average 58°F. Winter average 20°F. Annual average 34°F.

PRECIPITATION

Average annual rainfall is 13.90 inches. Average annual snowfall is 47.30 inches. Average annual precipitation is 18.63 inches.

POPULATION

Town population 2,649 in 1966. Trading area population approximately 20,000 according to 1965 Commercial Survey.

GEOLOGY AND SOIL

The bedrock of this area underlying the glacial deposits is the Belly River formation of the Upper Cretaceous period. It is a series of light colored sandstones and shales. The normal soil profile has a black to very dark brown surface horizon averaging 12 to 14 inches in depth. Soils in this zone are the most fertile in the province with three to four times as much nitrogen and organic matter as there is in the average brown or grey wooded soil.

A high percentage of the zone is arable. Wheat of fairly good quality can be grown but mixed farming with the use of fertilizer when needed is desirable for both profit and permanence. Mixed farming with hay and crop rotations have resulted in a large livestock population of cattle and hogs.

LIVING CONDITIONS

Westlock is in the centre of a rich mixed farming district and is a service centre for a much larger area in which oil, gas and lumber play an important role. Hard surface highways serve the town, and downtown and main residential streets are hard surfaced. There is a registered air strip within the town.

Health services are provided by eleven doctors, three dentists and two chiropractors resident in the town, by a general hospital with modern laboratory, and a 50-bed auxiliary hospital. A modern government-built Senior Citizen's Lodge also serves the district. Eight churches serve the religious needs of the community.

ADMINISTRATION

The town is governed by a mayor elected for a two year term and six councillors (two elected each year for a three-year term). The secretary-treasurer and assistants carry out policies set by the council.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The town employs three constables. Rural districts are policed by an R.C.M.P. detachment.

Zoning by-laws and building code are enforced by the council and building inspector. The electrical code conforms to the Alberta Electrical Protection Act. Alberta Public Health Regulations govern the sanitary by-laws.

FIRE PROTECTION

The fire brigade consists of a chief and 12 volunteer firemen. Equipment includes a 625 GPM pumper with 500-gallon water tank. There are 45 fire hydrants located throughout the town.

Residential areas are bright and neat

UTILITIES

Three phase 60-cycle power is supplied under franchise by Calgary Power Ltd. Natural gas is supplied under franchise by Plains Western Gas and Electric Co. Water is obtained from the Pembina River and pumped 7½ miles to a 55,000 gallon tower. There are 9.27 miles of water mains and 10.35 miles of sanitary sewers.

EDUCATION

Westlock public schools cover Grades 1 to 12 with additional optional subjects of typing, bookkeeping, music, art, industrial art, drama, home economics and shop. Separate school Grades 1 to 9 are provided, with proposed expansion.

RECREATION

There are 64 acres of parks and playgrounds. A new modern arena is in the first stage of a recreation complex. A covered curling rink has five sheets of artificial ice. There are senior and junior baseball and hockey teams, softball, badminton, football, golf, riding and flying clubs. Good fishing and hunting are accessible in the district.

Lodges, clubs and societies serve the adult population, and there are many activities for youth groups and children. Drama, music and art groups are active, and there is a choral society and a 65-piece band. The agricultural fair is a two-day annual event.

A theatre and a drive-in theatre provide entertainment, and the Memorial Hall accommodates 1,000 persons. The Westlock Municipal Library is maintained as a community library.

LOCAL RESOURCES

Lumber, straw, cereal, grass seed, coarse grains, dairy products, poultry and eggs, horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, honey, sand and gravel, gas, peat moss.

BUILDING SITES

Industrial and home sites are served with all utilities.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Westlock is served by the Northern Alberta Railways, bus service to and from Edmonton, Barrhead and Swan Hills, daily truck service to and from Edmonton. It has a weekly newspaper, the Westlock News, and receives broadcasts of seven radio stations and two television stations in Edmonton.

Northern Alberta Telegraphs, Alberta Government Telephones and postal services are readily available.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is provided by a 31-room hotel, a 12-unit motel, and a cabin camp, with trailer and tent grounds. ●

Meat Pans Grow To Desk Drawers

FROM MANUFACTURE OF meat pans to school desks may appear a long jump but it proved to be only a short step for the Edmonton plastics firm of Spencer-Lemaire Industries Limited.

Two years ago, the plastic meat pans being produced by the firm came to the attention of the Edmonton Separate School Board, which was searching for a local source of supply for plastic home economics desk drawers then being purchased in the United States. The meat pans proved to be easily adaptable to use in the home economics desks and the process involved in their production was soon being used to turn out drawers constructed to sizes specified by school architects to fit existing cabinets.

A representative of the Edmonton Public School Board recognized these same plastic trays as a possible solution to one of the problems facing those city elementary schools which have "team teaching" areas. These areas are open spaces housing a number of classes and, in them, the pupils move from one section to another for various subjects.

The problem was finding a way in which the children could move from one desk to another and still carry with them all their school materials. The plastic drawers proved to be the answer. They were light, sturdy and comparatively inexpensive, only two-thirds the cost of a wooden drawer of the same size, so they became "tote trays." The Public School Board contracted with Wescab Manufacturing Limited of Edmonton to build the desks to contain the drawers and 1,650 of these units were turned out the first year.

Vacuum-formed, with or without name tag holders, the drawers are produced from steel moulds, three at a time, at the rate of one every two minutes. They can be made out of any thermo-plastics but the major construction materials used by Spencer-Lemaire are: polystyrene, a stiff, lustrous, durable plastic; polyethylene, which is almost unbreakable and is more flexible and impervious to alkalis and acids; and A.B.S., a tough alloy of plastics with the characteristics of polystyrene plus additional toughness and chemical resistance. Tote trays are made from polystyrene; polyethylene is the material in the home economics trays and A.B.S. is being used in British Columbia on an experimental basis.

The company is presently supplying drawers for schools, universities and institutions in both Alberta and B.C. and is expanding production to include warehouse tote bins for materials handling. Plans call for future extension of the sales area into Saskatchewan and Manitoba. ●